



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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STATEMENT BY MAYOR JERRY SANDERS

PROPOSED COUNCIL ORDINANCE WOULD DE-RAIL REFORM; LOCK-IN DYSFUNCTIONAL, COSTLY SPENDING PRACTICES

The San Diego City Council will soon consider an ordinance that amends the FY07 appropriations ordinance. Not only is this ordinance poor public policy, it would de-rail efforts to reform our city's finances and would lock in the spending practices that got our city into the financial crisis we now face. The ordinance draft also contains factual inaccuracies and is poor public policy.

The Council's proposed ordinance would effectively eliminate the Business Process Re-engineering program that has already resulted in significant streamlining of city operations and saved taxpayers millions of dollars. It would tie my hands in moving forward with this program to further reduce spending and deliver city services more efficiently to residents.

This proposed ordinance would give the City Council veto power over efforts designed to make city government more efficient and accountable. This is wrong. The Council has apparently forgotten that voters approved empowering a strong mayor with the power to manage the city budget. It is as if the City Council is trying to revert to a city manager form of government that allows them to impose dysfunctional management practices on their hand-picked bureaucrat. This is the same City Council that has repeatedly demonstrated an inability to control spending or stand up to special interests. I was independently elected by the people to bring reform to the City of San Diego and that's exactly what I intend to do.

Our city faces budget shortfalls ranging from tens to hundreds of millions of dollars over the next several years because of the irresponsible decisions made by past City Councils. Should the Council approve this ordinance, it would restrict my ability to make city government more efficient so we can deliver better, more accountable city services. The Council's adoption of this ordinance would be a terrible disservice to taxpayers and put at risk our ability to restore our city's financial stability.

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